#### State Parks receives \$17.3 million for cleanup effort

In the 2006 supplemental budget, the Legislature and Governor appropriated \$17.3 million to State Parks to improve septic and wastewater treatment systems in 24 state parks. The allocation is part of a \$51.75 multiagency effort to protect and restore Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

The funds allocated for the State Parks projects help the agency do its part in the governor's cleanup initiative, while helping the Commission toward its general Centennial 2013 goal to take better care of the parks we have today while preparing for the future. Projects in 24 state parks will begin this summer.

The governor's initiative seeks to speed cleanups at toxic sites, help homeowners repair failing septic systems, pre-position spill-response equipment and reduce stormwater runoff. The Governor and Legislature chose to use State Parks as an example of working fast to get projects completed quickly and to demonstrate to other Puget Sound and Hood Canal residents

how to treat the Sound right, said State Parks Director Rex Derr. Many of the projects are expected to be completed by the end of the 2005-07 biennium.

Today, more than 5,700 acres of underwater lands in Puget Sound and Hood Canal exceed safe and healthy toxic levels, according to the Department of Ecology. In 2005, Puget Sound's orca whales were listed as an endangered species, joining a number of salmon species and 38 other native species in the Puget Sound region that are listed either as threatened or endangered.

"The Puget Sound and Hood Canal cleanup project is a phenomenal investment by the state, and we are excited, honored – and challenged – to get all these projects completed," said Derr. "We're going to be celebrating as we get the projects completed – and we'll be asking our partners and the Governor to celebrate with us, as Parks becomes part of the solution for cleaning up these precious waters."

# Pearrygin Lake expands with future in mind

The popular Pearrygin Lake State Park in the Methow Valley is in a process of expansion, with a recently opened campground, new cabins and the planned acquisition of adjacent property.

The newly acquired Derry Resort campground opened in April 2005. The addition of 40 full-hookup sites, 40 standard sites and a group camp at Derry now give the park a total of 165 campsites and two group camps. Three new cabins with kitchenettes have just been added, two of which are already open. The park, a popular destination for Seattle vacationers, had about 330,000

visitors in 2005.



The prominent hillside property the Commission will purchase as part of the citizen-proposed Bear Creek Corridor overlooks the lake and the park. Local ordinances allow subdivision of the prime property into five-acre parcels, something many local residents and park

users did not want. Concerned residents initiated a conversation with State Parks about options for preserving surrounding view areas from unsightly development.

The Parks planning team has been working with an advisory committee of landowners and the public to develop a land-use plan for the park to ensure that its future growth meets the needs of the community, is environmentally sound and is within the means and scope of the State Parks Commission.

Parks staff and the property owner have agreed on the terms of the purchase. Ideas from the public for how to use the new property include adding trails, camping, cabins, a golf course, equestrian facility and more. These ideas are refined and winnowed down until a viable and mutually acceptable plan is devised. Final recommendations will be presented to the Commission in August.

The campground addition and acquisition of adjacent property fits in with the "Your Legacy" category of the Centennial 2013 Plan to expand and add existing parks, trails and services. Land acquisition in the area helps preserve the quality park experience now and in the future by keeping land available for recreation, trails and conservation of wildlife and native plants.



Kayakers on the Cascadia Marine Trail get an up-close visit from an orca whale.

## Land, water trails beckon in summer

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages more than 600 miles of hiking trails, more than 3,000 miles of winter recreation trails and administers the water trails program in Washington.

Trails development is a major category of the Centennial 2013 Plan, with the goal of adding 1,000 new miles of trail for public use by 2013. To that end, 544 new miles already have been added since 2003: 31 miles on the Klickitat Trail in 2003; 146 miles on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail in 2004; and 367 miles on the Northwest Discovery Water Trail in 2005.

Besides the many hiking trails within state parks, State Parks' growing inventory of long-distance land trails is enjoyed in summer by hikers, bikers and equestrians and in winter by cross-country skiers, snowshoers, dogsledders and snowmobilers. Camping is available on or near some of the trails. Water trails offer long-distance recreation for nonmotorized boaters, with primitive campsites along the trails.

Summer is an inviting time to explore State Parks' land and water trails. For more information, visit www.parks.wa.gov/trails.asp.

- Spokane Centennial Trail: 37-mile trail from the Idaho border to Nine Mile Falls near Spokane. The trail runs through Riverside State Park.
- Columbia Plateau Trail State Park: 130 miles from Pasco to Cheney (23 miles currently developed and open for public use).
- The Iron Horse State Park John Wayne Pioneer Trail: 113-mile rail trail from North Bend to Vantage.
- Willapa Hills Trail: 56 miles from Chehalis to Raymond, most yet to be developed. Trailhead at Rainbow Falls State Park.
- ◆ Klickitat Trail: 31-mile rail trail from Lyle to Warwick.
- ◆ Cascadia Marine Trail: A Puget Sound water trail that runs from Hope Island South near Olympia to Canada.
- Columbia River Trail: 513-mile regional water trail, with 474 water trail miles in Washington.

#### Centennial 2013 Plan Recent Endorsements

Anne Tabacek • Greg Fliegel • Colleen Ankarberg • Stubbs, KMPS • Karen Johnston, Northland Services • J. Heunisch • Andrew Duffus • Debby Crull • Susan Galipeau • Robin Ruppert • Ruth Rosen • Warren Ankarberg • Denise Farnsworth • Jean Rawlins • Gary Dally • Allen and Judy Prater • Ken and Paulette Cassal • Robert D. Burrows • Vivian Camus • Ileen Schumaker • Jerry and Mary Ann Stark • Fran and Jim Degnan • Cari and Dale Secas • Ann France • Rick and Sandy Reimann • Harold and Gertrude Britton • John and Donna Hayes • Joe and Rhonda Jorgenson • Bruce and Gwendolyn Daniels • Marilyn Barbour • John and Jerlene Brayton • Ron Greening and Lori Bond • Ron and Babs Friend • Roger and Trudy Johnson • G. Moog • Mike Hargrove • Mel Stowell • Dennis M. Lynch • Robert Schneider • Paul and Jan Godsil Sr. • Mike and Shar Rau • Ward Boursaw • Leroy Fors • Mickii Coutts • Larry C. Davis • Cliffand Carole Sharp • Wayne and Judy Hale • Kandy and Bob Moore • Nancy and Norm Kendig • Thomas and Reta Griffin • W. Cartwright • Linda L. Witham • Gary Tollefson/Skagit Valley College

#### CENTENNIAL 2013 IN ACTION

### Fort Okanogan center gets face-lift

State Parks has partnered with other state agencies, the Colville Tribe and private groups to breathe new life into the Fort Okanogan Interpretive Center. The park, four miles north of Brewster, had struggled to keep the center open in recent years due to budget and staffing constraints.

Originally built in 1960, the interpretive center tells the story of Fort Okanogan, the first inland settlement on the Columbia Plateau, and an important cultural crossroads for the local native peoples and the fur traders who followed. The center is on a bluff overlooking the site at the confluence of the Okanogan and Columbia rivers, where the original fort was built in 1811 by John Jacob Aster's Pacific Fur Company.

Working in partnership with communities and organizations is the most important aspect of the Centennial 2013 Plan. The collaboration has resulted in:

- Increased staffing: State Parks has funded an interpretive assistant position to staff the museum and improve visitor services. Volunteer hosts also help with duties.
- ◆ Expanded hours: The center is now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, from May 15 to Oct. 19.
- Improved signage: The Washington State Department of Transpor-



New programs: These items were part of a demonstration of Native American basketry and weaving at the Fort Okanogan Interpretive Center last summer.

tation and the Okanogan County Tourism Council chipped in to add new or improved signage to better direct visitors.

- ♦ New summer program series: The Okanogan Historical Society worked closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Colville Tribal Casinos, Humanities Washington, Wenatchee Valley College and park staff to sponsor a series of summer weekend interpretive programs. These unique and informative programs pair noted historians and authors with tribal leaders to present historical programs from both the European and native peoples' perspectives.
- Upgraded exhibits: The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and the Okanogan Historical Society upgraded outdated display cases and provided improved artifacts and descriptions.
- Building improvements, including a new air conditioning system, will increase the park's

ability to attract volunteer help.

Other partners include the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Okanogan Scenic Byways Steering Committee, the Brewster and Bridgeport chambers of commerce, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and strong support from senators Robert Morton and Linda Evans Parlette.

## New yurts, cabins available to rent

If you want your camping experience to be a little more luxurious than pitching a tent, consider renting one of the new yurts and cabins that have sprung up in a few state parks recently.

Cape Disappointment State Park just added three new yurts, bringing the total to 13. Grayland Beach added yurts last year and now has 10. Battle Ground Lake has four cabins after adding two last year, and Kitsap Memorial has four brand-new cabins. Camano Island has five new cabins, and Pearrygin Lake has two of its three planned new cabins ready for use. Bay View also has four cabins.

Yurts sleep six people and have hardwood floors, electricity, screen windows and a skylight, all enclosed in light-colored canvas with a locking door. Cabins sleep four to six people and feature a 6-foot covered front porch, picnic table, electric heat, lights, locking doors, fire ring and pedestal grill. Restrooms and showers are nearby.



More luxurious than a tent: Grayland Beach State Park now has 10 yurts.

Yurts and cabins are reservable year round. For more information about renting a yurt, cabin or other rustic structure, visit www.parks. wa.gov/yurtcabn.asp.

#### Recent accomplishments and events in your state parks

New bridge at Sequim Bay: If you haven't recently visited Sequim Bay State Park, you'll find a hidden gem nestled in the forest: a wooden covered bridge that overlooks the bay (pictured). The structure, which replaces an old, rotting, vandalized bridge, was designed and built mostly by Dave Howat, the park's construction and maintenance project specialist. Howat used Douglas-fir, most of which came from the park itself in the form of felled hazard trees. Park Ranger Steve Gilstrom said they would not have the bridge without Howat: "It was his inspiration that made it happen. . . . As people find it, they love it," Gilstrom said. "On a warm summer day, it's cool down there in the ravine . . . a nice little out-of-the-way place."

Arts in the Parks events: Several parks this summer are featuring Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks events, a partnership program between State Parks and the Washington State Arts Commission and funded by them and the National Endowment for the Arts. "Inspirations from the Forest" is a stationary Smithsonian Institution exhibit celebrating the centennial of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and extolling the artistic expressions inspired by our nation's national forests. The exhibit runs through June 5 at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake near Seaquest State Park. Activities planned during the exhibit include demonstrations of wood carving; mule- and horse-packing; basket weaving; traditional Finnish music; legends of the Cowlitz and Chehalis peoples and more. Also watch for American Roots events every Saturday night in July at Deception Pass State Park. For more information about these and other events, visit www.parks.wa.gov/events.



Ranger mentors students: Twanoh State Park Ranger Stacy Ruland spent a month recently helping students learn about and plan projects for the Students in the Watershed program. Thirty high school students developed lesson plans, teaching aids and activities about the Hood Canal Watershed environment that they then shared with 200 fourth-graders from Mason County. The concept of the program, in its 11th year, is to educate students about the creatures and culture of the forest, as well as caring for and harvesting the forest. "The high school students and the elementary students all left the project with a better understanding of the fragile balance that we are trying to maintain in the Hood Canal," Ruland said. Several other state parks collaborate with agencies and partners to educate kids on environmental aspects, including forest protection; campsite do's and don'ts; dune ecology; fire prevention; the Lewis and Clark journey and more.